MEGA-ACTION! MEGA-ADVENTURE! MEGA-FUN!
MEGA MAN™
CAPCOM
ISSUE 17
Archie COMICS
AT LAST--
THE ORIGIN OF
PROTO MAN™
ARCHIECOMICS.COM
BASED ON THE HIT VIDEO GAME SERIES!

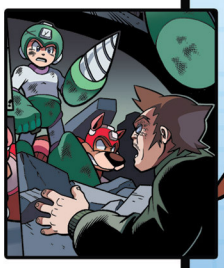
IN THE YEAR 200X, A SUPER ROBOT NAMED MEGA MAN WAS CREATED BY DR. LIGHT TO STOP THE EVIL DESIRES OF DR. WILY. MEGA MAN NOW FIGHTS ALONGSIDE HIS FELLOW ROBOT MASTERS TO DEFEAT THE FORCES OF EVIL!

MEGA MAN™

PREVIOUSLY...

When Dr. Light first unveiled his series of ROBOT MASTERS, he hoped to push the boundaries of advanced robotics and create a race of beings that would work to build a better world. Little did he know the corrupt Dr. Wily would use Light's technology to unleash terror upon the very people they were meant to help and protect. That's when a helpful lab assistant robot named Rock volunteered to become a hero of the defenseless, and a challenger of evil. A super fighting robot named MEGA MAN!

Our heroes finally have a moment of calm following the events of the Advanced Robotics Trade Show, where an anti-technology extremist organization calling themselves the Emerald Spears hijacked the event in attempt to destroy everything in their path! Mega Man was able to defeat the sinister organization, but not before their leader, Xander Payne, escaped into the night.



The incident at the A.R.T.S. has served as a reminder that dealing with advanced robotics can be just as perilous as dealing with human life. Since Rock first donned the mantle of Mega Man, Dr. Light has alluded to a robot that he had lost in the past, and his regret over that loss seems to haunt the good doctor to this day.

Meanwhile, Dr. Wily has retreated to the Amazon Jungle, where a mysterious new presence called "Ra Moon" has made itself known to the evil genius. Wily has channeled this strange power into building an army of robot masters, that is,

CHARACTER SELECT

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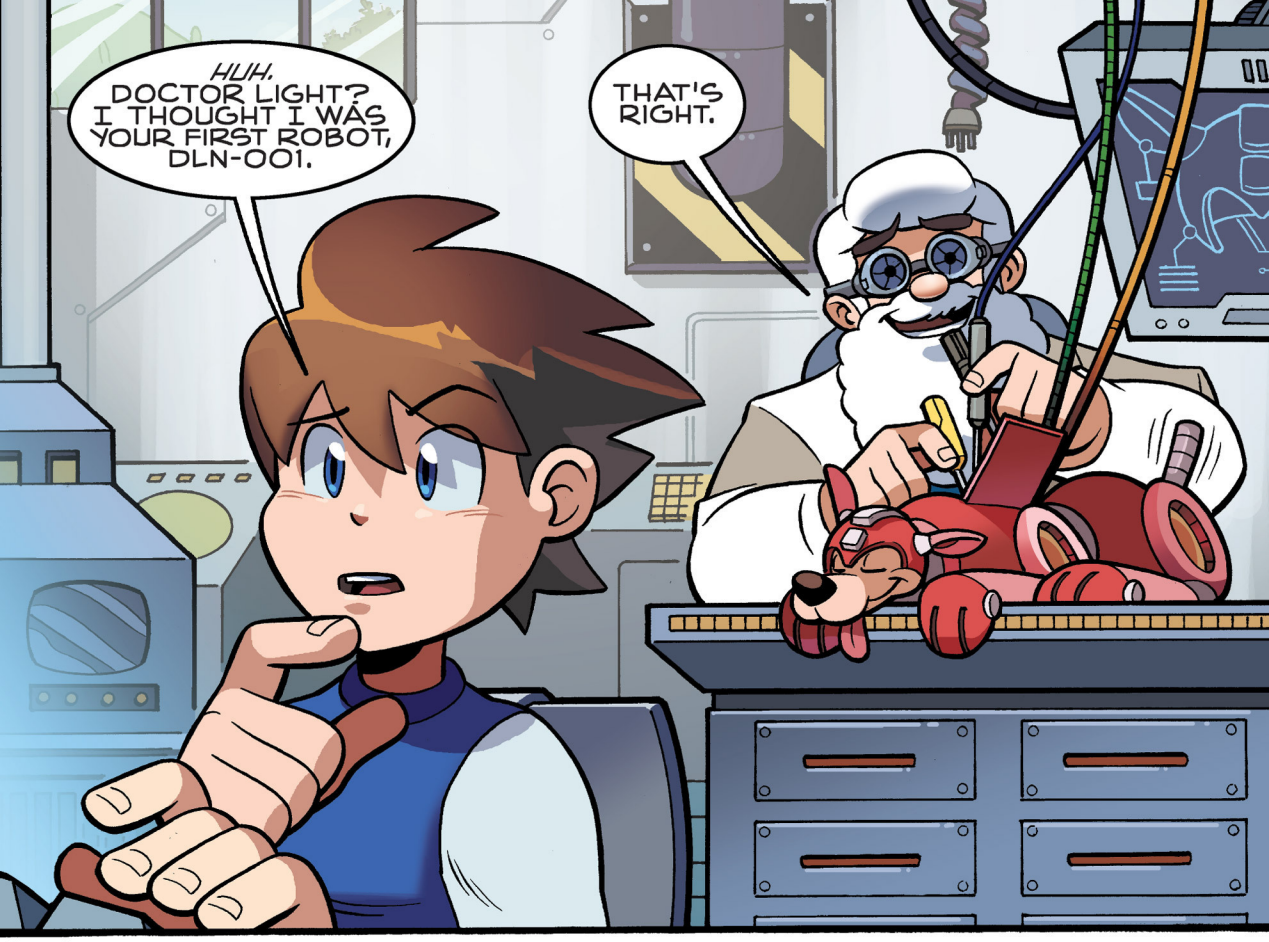

PROTO-TYPE

PART ONE: FATHER AND SON

Writer: IAN FLYNN • **Pencils:** CHAD THOMAS • **Inks:** GARY MARTIN
Colors: MATT HERMS • **Letters:** JOHN WORKMAN
Cover by THOMAS, MARTIN, and HERMS
Variant Cover by JAMAL PEPPERS, GARY MARTIN, and ART LYON
Assistant Editor: VINCENT LOVALLO • **Editor/Exec. Director of Editorial:** PAUL KAMINSKI
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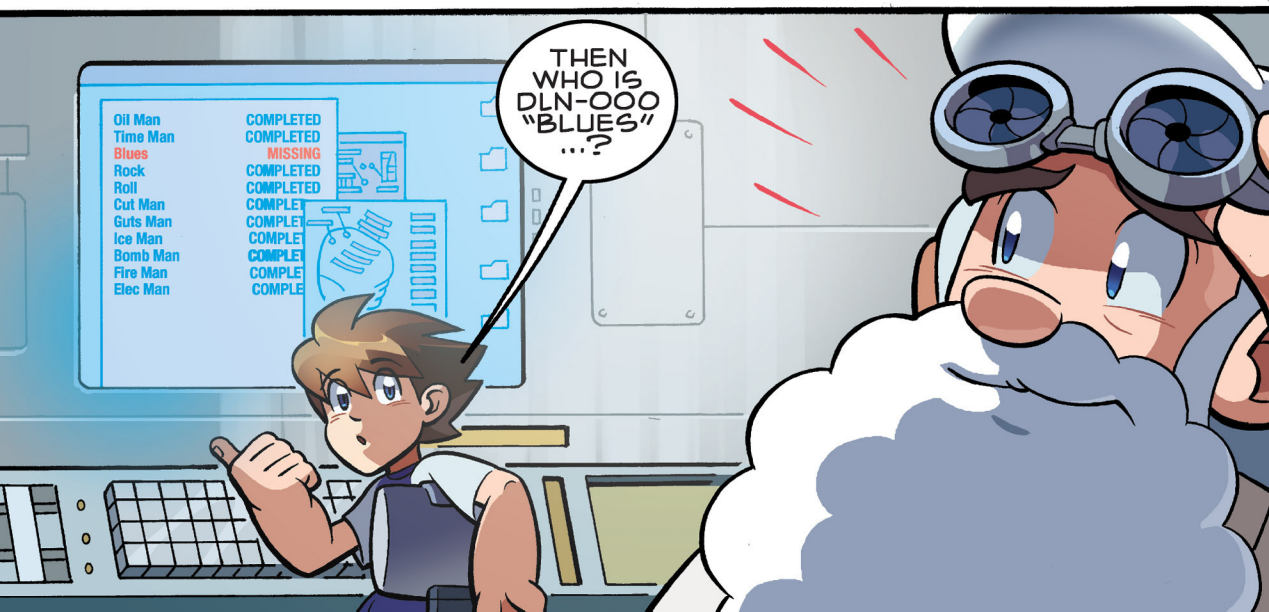
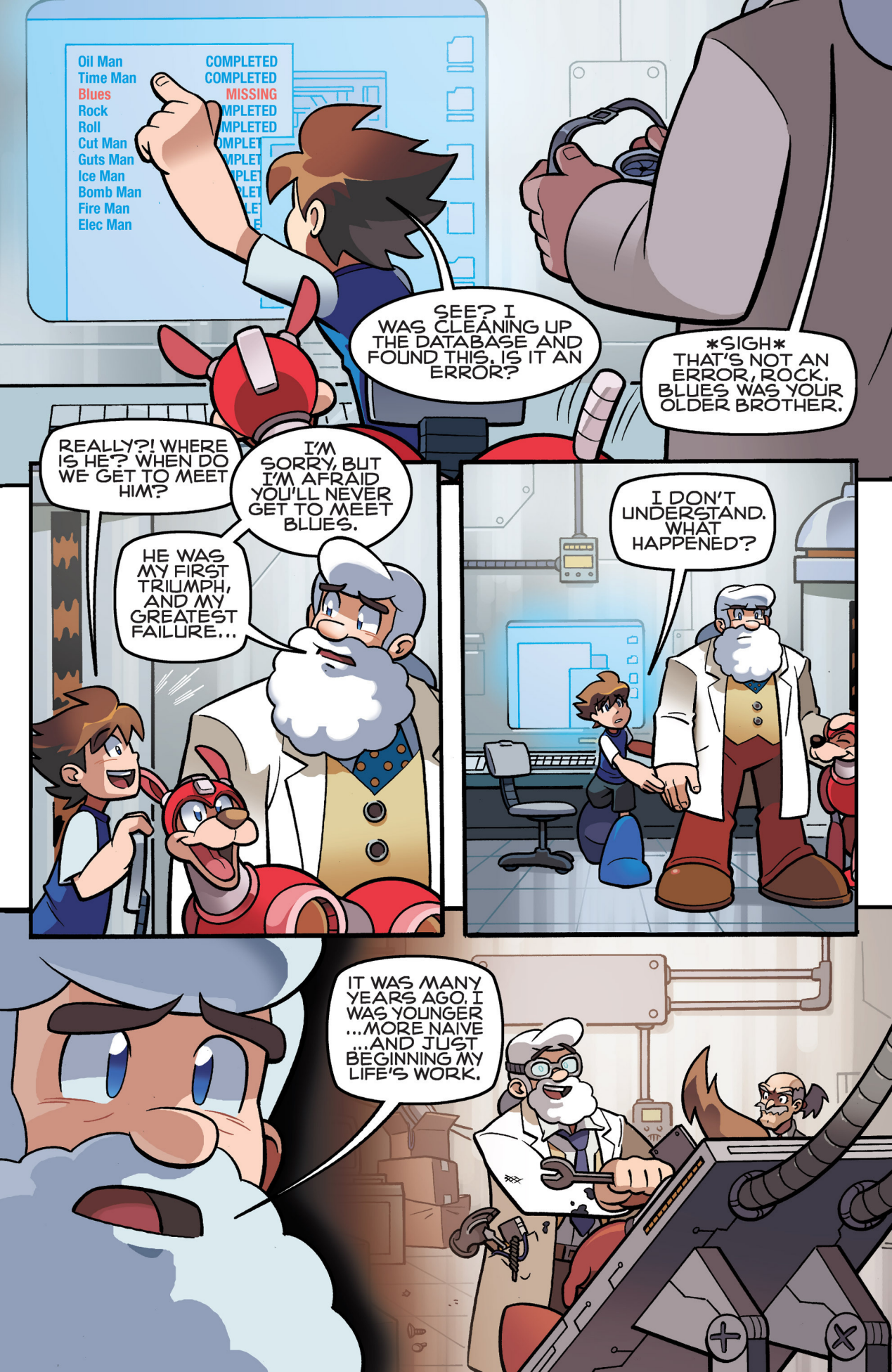


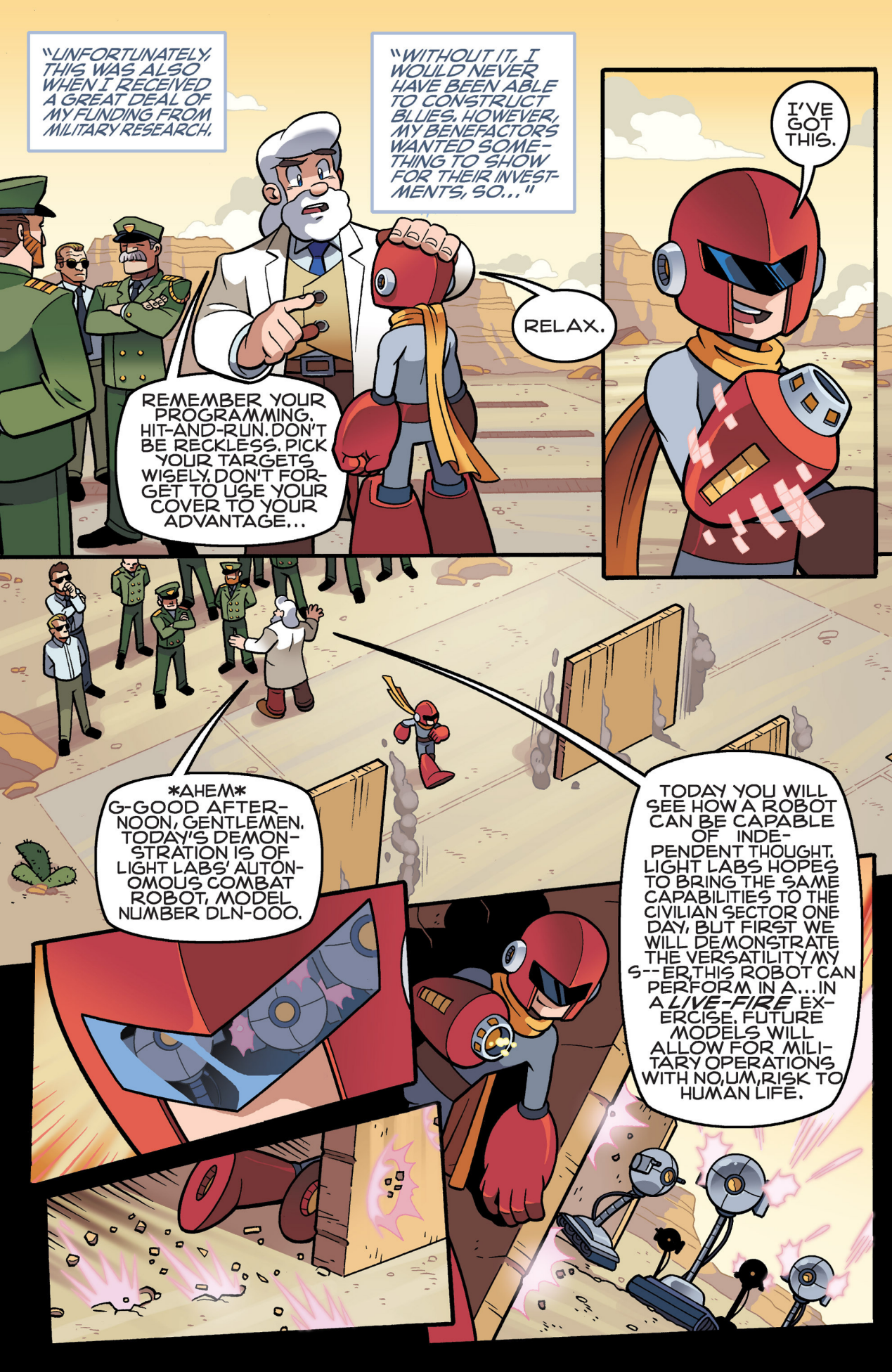

Oil Man COMPLETED
Time Man COMPLETED
Blues MISSING
Rock MPLETED
Roll MPLETED
Cut Man OMPLET
Guts Man MPLET
Ice Man PLET
Bomb Man LET
Fire Man LE
Elec Man E
SEE? I WAS CLEANING UP THE DATABASE AND FOUND THIS. IS IT AN ERROR?
SIGH THAT'S NOT AN ERROR, ROCK. BLUES WAS YOUR OLDER BROTHER.
REALLY?! WHERE IS HE? WHEN DO WE GET TO MEET HIM?
I'M SORRY, BUT I'M AFRAID YOU'LL NEVER GET TO MEET BLUES.
HE WAS MY FIRST TRIUMPH, AND MY GREATEST FAILURE...
I DON'T UNDERSTAND. WHAT HAPPENED?
IT WAS MANY YEARS AGO. I WAS YOUNGER ...MORE NAIVE ...AND JUST BEGINNING MY LIFE'S WORK.

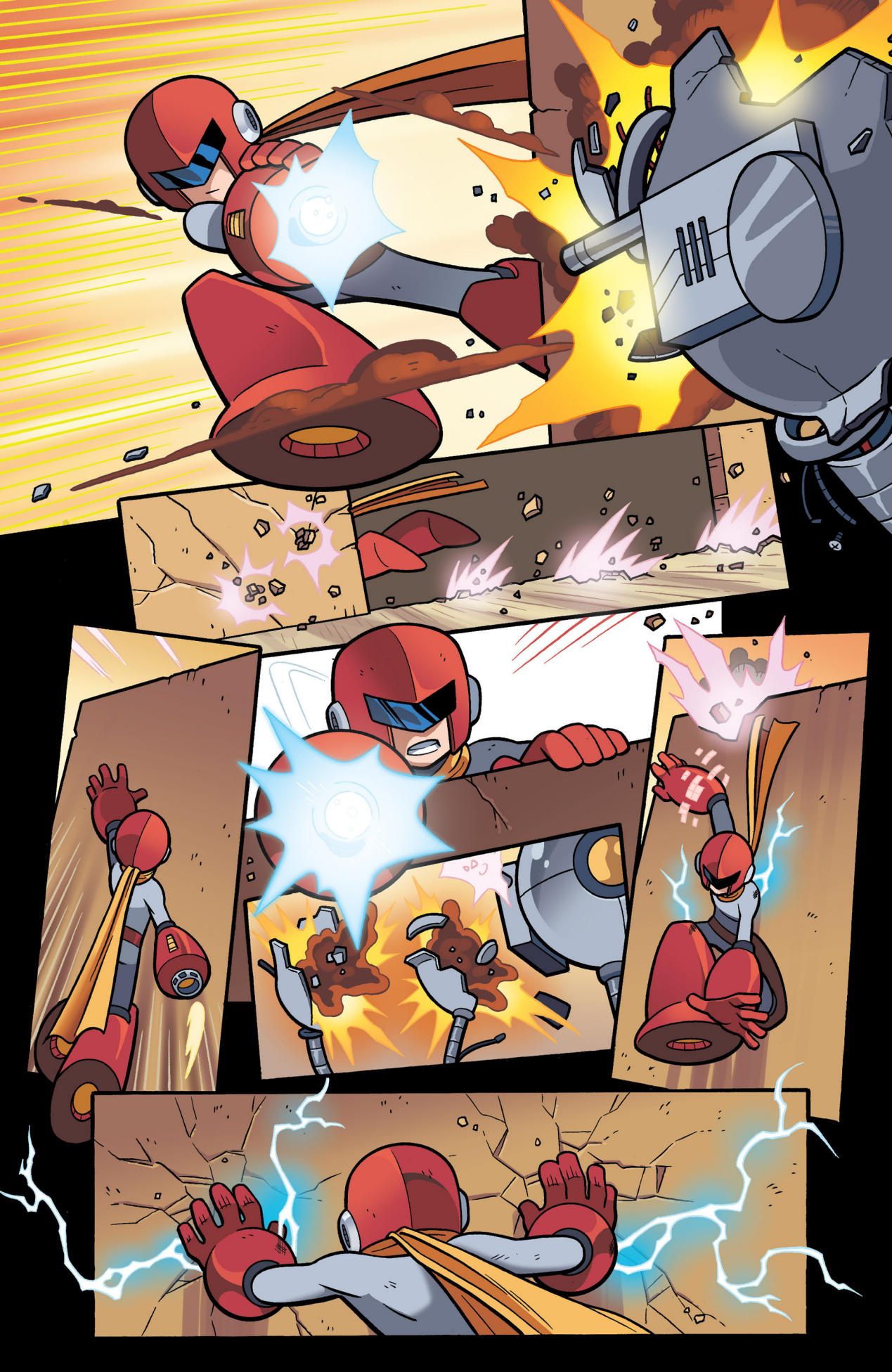
"BACK THEN, I STILL COUNTED DR. WILY AS A FRIEND..."
THAT'S IT, ALBERT! HE'S ALL DONE!
MMM. IT'S AWFULLY...HUMAN-LOOKING, THOMAS. ASIDE FROM THE HAIR, THAT IS.
JEALOUS?
NO! DON'T EVEN START. YOU STARTED GOING GRAY BEFORE I DID.
THAT'S JUST A SIGN THAT WE'RE DIS-TINGUISHED GENTLEMEN OF SCIENCE!
BACK TO MY POINT--
--YOUR MILITARY CON-TRACT WAS FOR AN ADVANCED FIGHTING ROBOT. YOU'VE BUILT A...YOUNG MAN.
AND MY ROBOT MASTER LINE WILL BE CAPABLE OF ADVANCED WARFARE --AS WELL AS A MYRIAD OF OTHER ADVANCED MENTAL PROCESSES. I'LL GET THEM THEIR WEAPON, BUT THIS PROTOTYPE, MY BOY, WILL STAY WITH ME.
HMPH. I'D SAY...
...YOU WERE TAKING YOUR LOVE OF ROBOTICS TOO FAR, BUT THEN I'D BE A HYPOCRITE. LET'S WAKE HIM UP.
RIGHT. WAKE UP, SON. GOOD MORNING...

...BLUES!
...HELLO?
WELCOME INTO THE WORLD, MY BOY! I'M YOUR CREATOR...DOCTOR LIGHT!
HOW DO YOU FEEL? YOUR SELF-DIAGNOSTIC SHOULD'VE KICKED IN FIRST THING.
I FEEL... FINE? ALL SYSTEMS REPORT NOMINAL.
I FEEL...CONFUSED. OVERWHELMED. DISORIENTED. I KNOW WE ARE IN THE "LAB," AND WHAT A "LAB" IS, BUT...WHY?
DO YOU HEAR THIS, ALBERT? HE'S SELF-AWARE! NOT FIVE MINUTES ONLINE, AND HE'S ALREADY THINKING META-PHYSICALLY!
MM-HMM. DON'T MIND ME...JUST TAKING THE MEASUREMENTS YOU'LL NEED FOR THE WEAPON UPGRADES LATER. YOU'RE WELCOME, BY THE WAY.
WEAPONS?
DON'T WORRY ABOUT THAT NOW. YOU'RE TAKING THE FIRST STEPS TO BRIDGE THE GAP BETWEEN HUMANITY AND ROBOTICS.
YOU HAVE DATA, BUT WHAT YOU NEED NOW IS CULTURE.

SALE
SYMPHO
IN THE PARK
MART

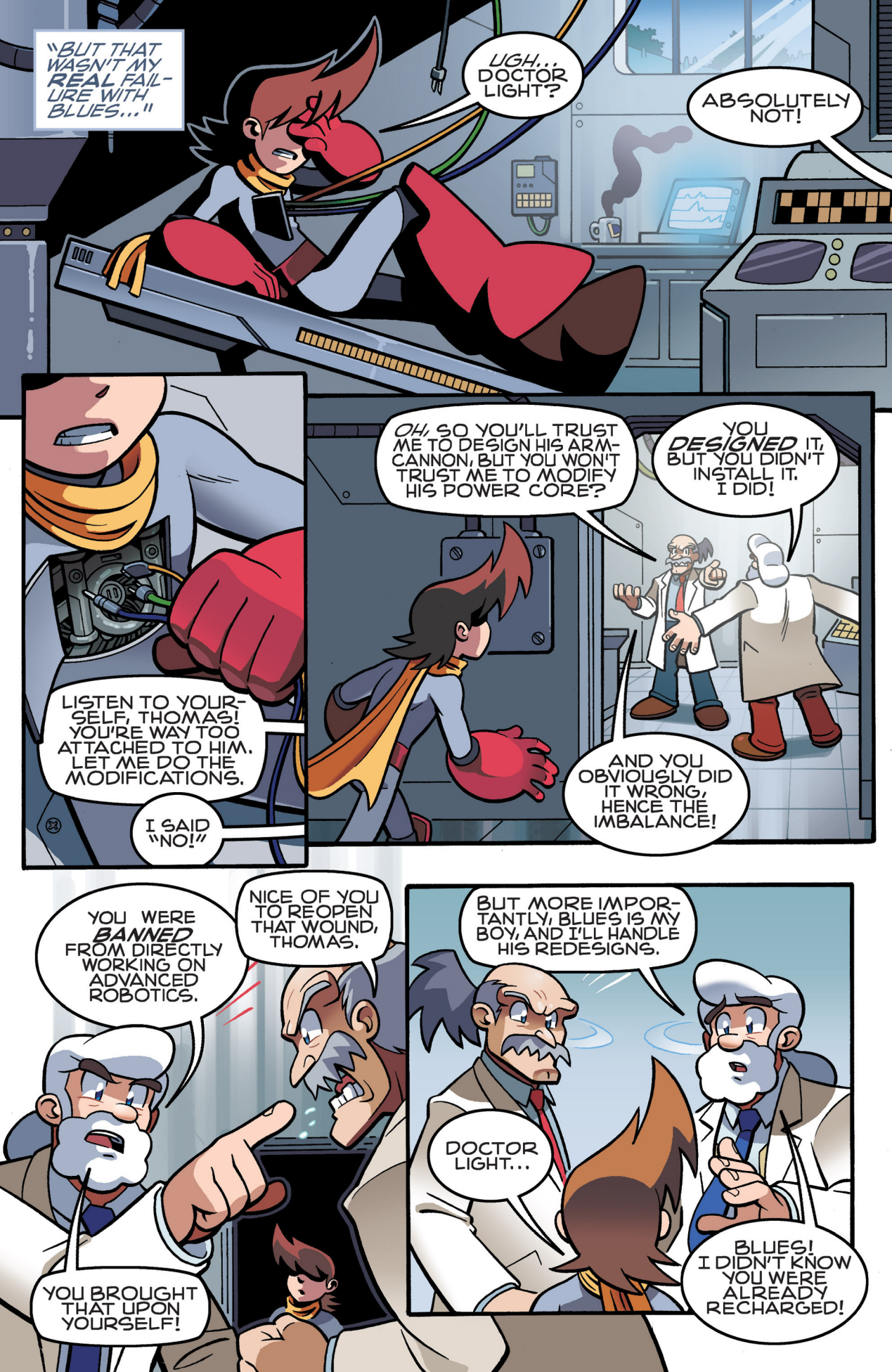
"IN RETROSPECT, I WAS TOO ENTHUSIASTIC. I PUSHED TOO MUCH OF THE WORLD--OF MY OWN GOALS--ON HIM AT ONCE. BUT HE SEEMED TO BE ACCEPTING IT ALL SO WELL..."
OH, HI, DR. LIGHT. SOMETHING WRONG?
NOT AT ALL. I WAS JUST ENJOYING THE TUNE YOU WERE WHISTLING. WHAT...WHAT IS IT FROM?
NOWHERE. IT'S SOMETHING I MADE UP MYSELF.
MADE UP YOURSELF. I SEE. VERY GOOD. C-CARRY ON.


"UNFORTUNATELY, THIS WAS ALSO WHEN I RECEIVED A GREAT DEAL OF MY FUNDING FROM MILITARY RESEARCH.
"WITHOUT IT, I WOULD NEVER HAVE BEEN ABLE TO CONSTRUCT BLUES. HOWEVER, MY BENEFACTORS WANTED SOMETHING TO SHOW FOR THEIR INVESTMENTS, SO..."
REMEMBER YOUR PROGRAMMING. HIT-AND-RUN. DON'T BE RECKLESS. PICK YOUR TARGETS WISELY. DON'T FORGET TO USE YOUR COVER TO YOUR ADVANTAGE...
RELAX.
I'VE GOT THIS.
AHEM G-GOOD AFTERNOON, GENTLEMEN. TODAY'S DEMONSTRATION IS OF LIGHT LABS' AUTONOMOUS COMBAT ROBOT, MODEL NUMBER DLN-000.
TODAY YOU WILL SEE HOW A ROBOT CAN BE CAPABLE OF INDEPENDENT THOUGHT. LIGHT LABS HOPES TO BRING THE SAME CAPABILITIES TO THE CIVILIAN SECTOR ONE DAY, BUT FIRST WE WILL DEMONSTRATE THE VERSATILITY MY S--ER, THIS ROBOT CAN PERFORM IN A... IN A LIVE-FIRE EXERCISE. FUTURE MODELS WILL ALLOW FOR MILITARY OPERATIONS WITH NO, UM, RISK TO HUMAN LIFE.



V-VERY GOOD. WE MOVE ON TO EXERCISE TWO.
DOC... DOCTOR L-LIGHT? SOME-THING'S...
BLUES? BLUES? STOP THE TEST! STOP THE TEST!

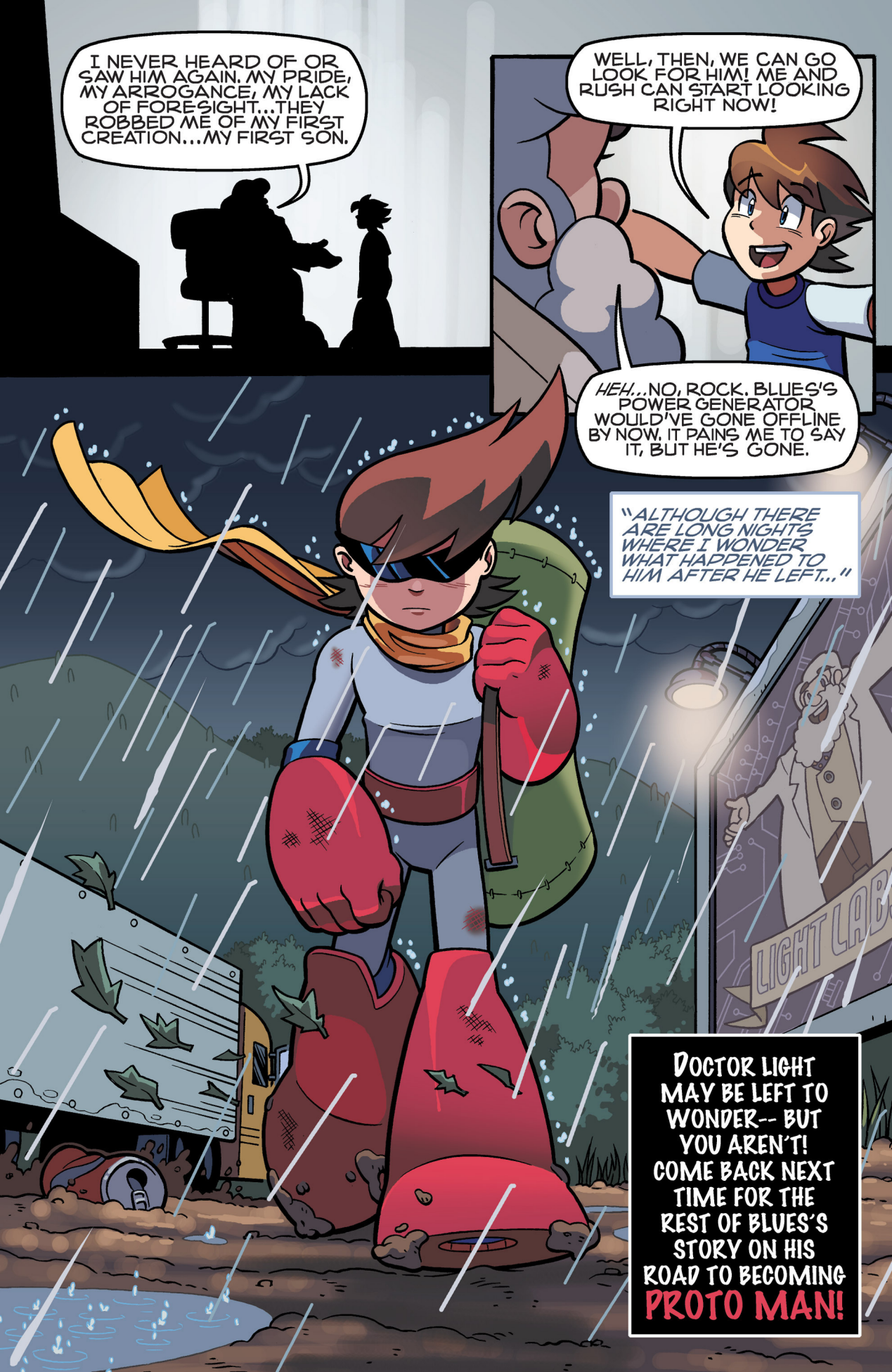
EVERYTHING WAS GOING SO WELL. WHAT HAPPENED, DOCTOR?
THERE SEEMS TO BE AN IMBALANCE IN HIS POWER GENERATOR. HE'S NEVER BEEN PUT UNDER THIS KIND OF STRAIN...
YOU DIDN'T TEST IT FIRST?
OF COURSE I DID!
BUT EVERYTHING ABOUT HIM IS UNIQUE--EXPERIMENTAL. A ROBOT THIS ADVANCED REQUIRES A TREMENDOUS AMOUNT OF POWER, AND WHEN THE OUTPUT DEMAND IS PUSHED...
IT CERTAINLY SHOWS PROMISE, BUT THE POWER-FAILURE IS A CONCERN.
YES... A SIMPLER MODEL WOULD REQUIRE LESS POWER. A SIMPLER BATTLE SOFTWARE SUITE WOULD STILL BE SUFFICIENT.
CONGRATULATIONS, DOCTOR. YOU'VE WON US OVER. WE'LL CLEAR YOU FOR FURTHER RESEARCH FUNDING. GET BACK TO US WHEN YOU'VE GOT A SMALLER, SIMPLER MODEL.
Y-YES, SIRS... THANK YOU...


"BUT THAT WASN'T MY REAL FAILURE WITH BLUES..."
UGH... DOCTOR LIGHT?
ABSOLUTELY NOT!
LISTEN TO YOURSELF, THOMAS! YOU'RE WAY TOO ATTACHED TO HIM. LET ME DO THE MODIFICATIONS.
I SAID "NO!"
OH, SO YOU'LL TRUST ME TO DESIGN HIS ARM-CANNON, BUT YOU WON'T TRUST ME TO MODIFY HIS POWER CORE?
YOU DESIGNED IT, BUT YOU DIDN'T INSTALL IT. I DID!
AND YOU OBVIOUSLY DID IT WRONG, HENCE THE IMBALANCE!
YOU WERE BANNED FROM DIRECTLY WORKING ON ADVANCED ROBOTICS.
NICE OF YOU TO REOPEN THAT WOUND, THOMAS.
YOU BROUGHT THAT UPON YOURSELF!
BUT MORE IMPORTANTLY, BLUES IS MY BOY, AND I'LL HANDLE HIS REDESIGNS.
DOCTOR LIGHT...
BLUES! I DIDN'T KNOW YOU WERE ALREADY RECHARGED!

ARE YOU ALL RIGHT? DO YOU FEEL OFF-BALANCE AT ALL?
I'M FINE. WHAT'S THIS ABOUT RE-DESIGNING ME?
YOUR POWER GENERATOR IS FLAWED. IF I DON'T FIX IT, THE IMBALANCE WILL EVENTU-ALLY DESTROY YOU.
I HAVE TO REDESIGN YOUR CORE TO SAVE YOU.
AND WHAT IF YOU BUNGLE IT AND ERASE HIS PERSONAL CODING?
I'M SURE YOU'LL RE-TAIN ALL YOUR PERSONALITY TRAITS!
HEH--JUST AS YOU WERE SURE HIS GENERATOR WOULD WORK PROPERLY?
YOU'RE NOT HELPING!
I KNOW. YOU WON'T LET ME.
ENOUGH!
FINE, FINE.
BLUES, GO HOOK YOURSELF BACK UP IN THE LAB SO YOUR POWER RE-MAINS STABLE. WE'LL BEGIN WORK TOMORROW.
BUT...
NOW, PLEASE. THIS IS FOR YOUR OWN GOOD.
...BUT WHAT ABOUT WHAT I WANT?

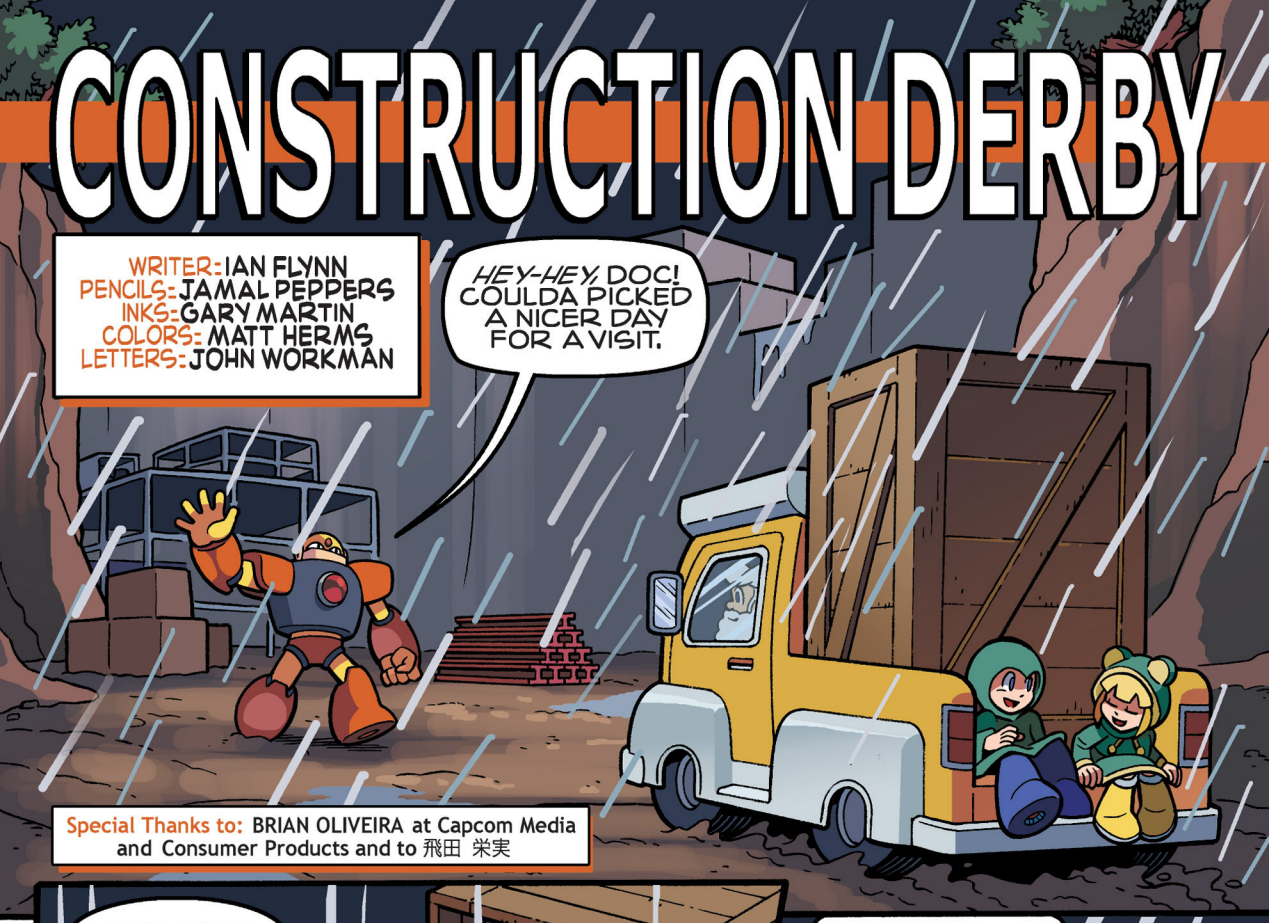
"THAT NIGHT... WELL, I CAN'T BE CERTAIN IF THIS IS HOW IT PLAYED OUT, BUT I'VE RUN THE SCENARIO OVER AND OVER AGAIN IN MY HEAD...
I JUST DON'T UNDERSTAND, NOELE. IT'S TO SAVE HIS LIFE!
YOU CODED THE CLOSEST THING TO A WILL OF HIS OWN, AND YOU DIDN'T EXPECT HIM TO USE IT?
OF COURSE, AND I WANT HIM TO! BUT I WANT HIM TO MAKE GOOD, LOGICAL DECISIONS.
FROM WHAT YOU'VE TOLD ME, HE THINKS HIS LIFE IS IN DANGER. DO YOU KNOW ANYONE WHO'S LOGICAL WHEN FACING THEIR OWN MORTALITY?
I HATE GETTING INTO DEBATES WITH YOU.
YOU CALLED ME FOR MY DAZZLING INSIGHT. OR WAS IT JUST TO COMPLAIN ABOUT YOUR BOY?
IN PART TO FORE-WARN YOU IF YOU'RE STILL PLANNING ON BUILDING..."TEMPO," WAS IT?
HONESTLY, IT WOULD BE *EASIER* IF I *DID* REWRITE THAT REBEL-LIOUS STREAK OUT OF HIM...

YOU DON'T MEAN THAT.
NO, OF COURSE NOT. I'M JUST SAYING... SIGH... I DON'T KNOW WHAT I'M SAYING.
ONCE HE'S REPAIRED, I'LL MAKE IT UP TO HIM. AND, IN THE LONG RUN, HE'LL SEE IT WAS FOR THE GREATER GOOD.


I NEVER HEARD OF OR SAW HIM AGAIN. MY PRIDE, MY ARROGANCE, MY LACK OF FORESIGHT...THEY ROBBED ME OF MY FIRST CREATION...MY FIRST SON.
WELL, THEN, WE CAN GO LOOK FOR HIM! ME AND RUSH CAN START LOOKING RIGHT NOW!
HEH...NO, ROCK. BLUES'S POWER GENERATOR WOULD'VE GONE OFFLINE BY NOW. IT PAINS ME TO SAY IT, BUT HE'S GONE.
"ALTHOUGH THERE ARE LONG NIGHTS WHERE I WONDER WHAT HAPPENED TO HIM AFTER HE LEFT..."
LIGHT LAB
DOCTOR LIGHT MAY BE LEFT TO WONDER-- BUT YOU AREN'T! COME BACK NEXT TIME FOR THE REST OF BLUES'S STORY ON HIS ROAD TO BECOMING PROTO MAN!

CONSTRUCTION DERBY

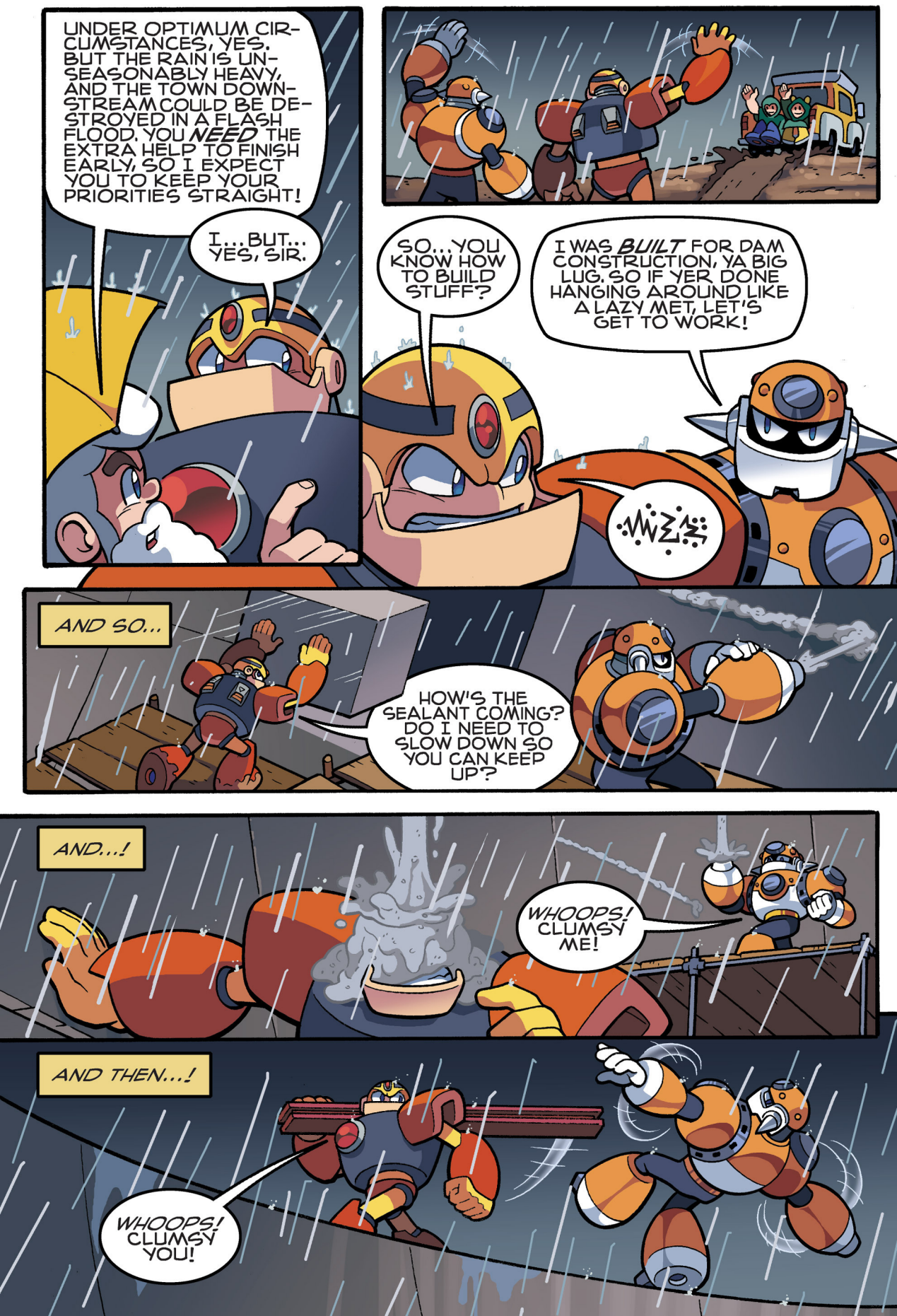
WRITER: IAN FLYNN
PENCILS: JAMAL PEPPERS
INKS: GARY MARTIN
COLORS: MATT HERMS
LETTERS: JOHN WORKMAN

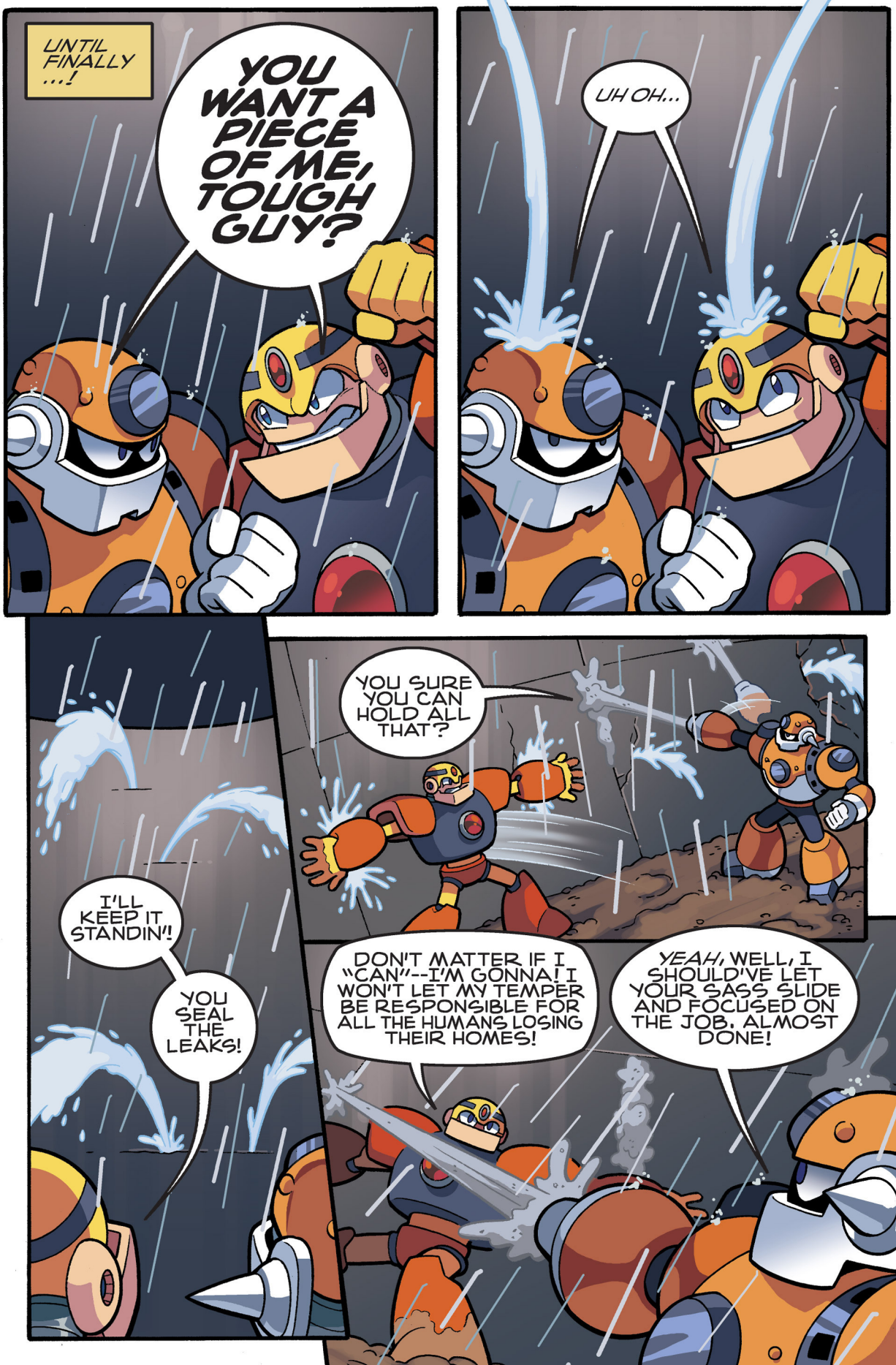


Special Thanks to: BRIAN OLIVEIRA at Capcom Media and Consumer Products and to 飛田 栄実

THIS ISN'T JUST A FRIENDLY VISIT, GUTS MAN. I'VE COME TO BRING YOU SOME HELP TO FINISH THE DAM.
HELP?!
MEET DLN-065, OR AS I LIKE TO CALL HIM, CONCRETE MAN.

DON'TCHA THINK YER GETTING A BIT PRESUMP-TUOUS, DOC?
GRANTED, I DID JUMP AHEAD IN MY CONCEPT NOTES, BUT...
NO! I MEAN I'M GUTS MAN! I DON'T NEED NO HELP FINISHING THIS DAM!


UNDER OPTIMUM CIRCUMSTANCES, YES. BUT THE RAIN IS UNSEASONABLY HEAVY, AND THE TOWN DOWNSTREAM COULD BE DESTROYED IN A FLASH FLOOD. YOU *NEED* THE EXTRA HELP TO FINISH EARLY, SO I EXPECT YOU TO KEEP YOUR PRIORITIES STRAIGHT!
I...BUT...: YES, SIR.
SO...YOU KNOW HOW TO BUILD STUFF?
I WAS *BUILT* FOR DAM CONSTRUCTION, YA BIG LUG. SO IF YER DONE HANGING AROUND LIKE A LAZY MET, LET'S GET TO WORK!
WHZZ
AND SO...
HOW'S THE SEALANT COMING? DO I NEED TO SLOW DOWN SO YOU CAN KEEP UP?
AND...!
WHOOPS! CLUMSY ME!
AND THEN...!
WHOOPS! CLUMSY YOU!


UNTIL FINALLY ...!
YOU WANT A PIECE OF ME, TOUGH GUY?
UH OH...
YOU SURE YOU CAN HOLD ALL THAT?
I'LL KEEP IT STANDIN'!
YOU SEAL THE LEAKS!
DON'T MATTER IF I "CAN"--I'M GONNA! I WON'T LET MY TEMPER BE RESPONSIBLE FOR ALL THE HUMANS LOSING THEIR HOMES!
YEAH, WELL, I SHOULD'VE LET YOUR SASS SLIDE AND FOCUSED ON THE JOB. ALMOST DONE!

OH, NO, IT DON'T! GET TOP-SIDE AND GET READY TO SET A STONE!
YOU GOT IT!
HHHR AUGH!
NICE WORK, MAC. I SEE WHY THEY CALL YOU "GUTS MAN."
THANKS, PAL, BUT WE'RE NOT DONE YET! AFTER A JOB'S DONE COMES THE MOST IMPORTANT TIME OF THE DAY.

LATER...
GUTS MAN? CONCRETE MAN?
THE DAM LOOKS GREAT, BUT WHERE DID THEY GO?
...DON'T FORGET! THE BRAND NEW SKYYYY IN THOSE DAZZLING EYES. WE GO ON A BRAND NEW WAAAAAAAAAAYY! AGAIN WE WALK ONNN!
END

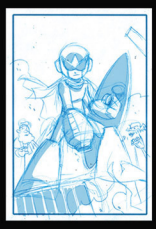
NEXT ISSUE
PROTO-TYPE
PART 2

ROCK ON

EDITORIAL COLUMN

YOU GOT ME SINGIN' THE BLUES!

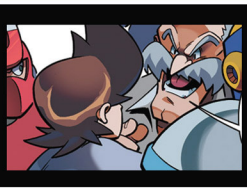
Here it is, Mega-fans, the story you've all been waiting for – the origin of Proto Man! While we saw the return of Blues in the conclusion of "Spiritus Ex Machina" (available now as a complete set on the Mega Man store @ archiecomics.com plugplugplugplug), this issue we began the full back-story of the robot that started it all!



STANDARD (LEFT) & VARIANT (BELOW) COVER SKETCHES FOR "PROTO-TYPE" BY CHAD THOMAS

We'd also like to welcome back penciller Chad Thomas, whom you'll remember from the "Time Keeps Slipping" story arc (now available in graphic novel! plugplugplugplug) who joins us for both parts of the "Proto-Type" story! Also a a big welcome to penciller Jamal Peppers, whose pencils graced the Ice Man variant cover for Mega Man #4 (did I mention you can get that variant cover and ALL the other vairant covers for an easy-breezy $15 @ archiecomics.com? plugplugplugplug) and who will be back next month for another awesome robot master back-up story!

PROTO MAN AT THE END OF "TIME KEEPS SLIPPING" (ABOVE) AND HIS RETURN AT THE END OF "SPIRITUS EX MACHINA" (BELOW).



That's all for now Mega-peoples, but we'll see you back here next month for more Mega-action!

Catch ya next time!

PAUL

DEMAND YOUR MEGA MAN™

"AN EXPLOSIVE NEW SERIES!"
-- NINTENDO POWER MAGAZINE

"A LOT OF FUN!"
-- MTV

"THE SMARTEST SUPER-HERO COMIC ON THE STANDS."
-- AOL's COMICS ALLIANCE

GET THE NEW HIT COMIC SERIES BASED ON THE VIDEO GAME ICON!

Archie COMICS

CAPCOM

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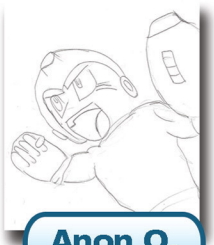
MEGA-MAIL PRESENTS MASTER WORKS

YOUR MEGA MAN FAN ART

Tabby R. sent to megaman@archiecomics.com

Anonymous from California



Anon O. from Texas

Summer H. from Kansas

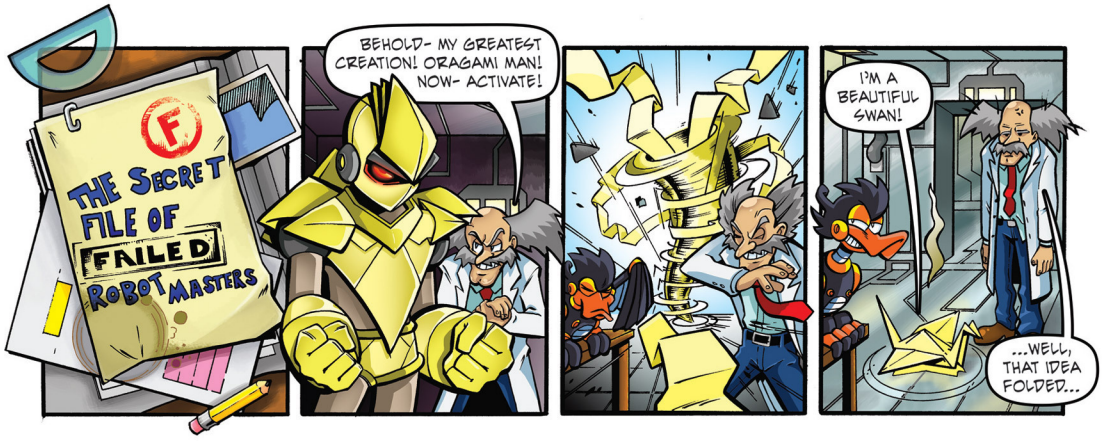
SEND IN YOUR FAN ART ONLINE TO: MEGAMAN@ ARCHIECOMICS.COM OR SNAIL MAIL TO:

C/O ARCHIE COMIC PUBLICATIONS, INC P.O. BOX #419 MAMARONECK, NY 10543-0419

ART WILL NOT BE RETURNED. SPACE LIMITATIONS MAY REQUIRE SOME PRINTED ART TO BE EDITED. ALL YOUR LETTERS & FAN ART ARE APPRECIATED!

- SHORT CIRCUITS -

SCRIPT: IAN FLYNN PENCILS: RYAN JAMPOLE INKS: KENT ARCHER COLORS: VINCENT LOVALLO


THE SECRET FILE OF FAILED ROBOT MASTERS
BEHOLD- MY GREATEST CREATION! ORAGAMI MAN! NOW- ACTIVATE!
I'M A BEAUTIFUL SWAN!
...WELL, THAT IDEA FOLDED...

MEGA-MAIL

WRITE TO US @: MEGA-MAIL c/o ARCHIE COMIC PUBLICATIONS, INC.
P.O. BOX # 419 MAMARONECK, NY 10543-0419 E-MAIL: MEGAMAN@ARCHIECOMICS.COM

Dear Mega-Mail,
You guys are awesome when it comes to putting the Mega Man franchise together! I've been collecting your comics ever since the start and I'm loving it.

That's what we like to hear! And trust us, it only gets cooler from here!

You have really inspired me since I'm an artist myself. I'm 15 years old and really love how Spaz drew those first four comic books. Keep up the good work

I'll pass your compliments along to Mr. Spaziante himself! Spaz will be back this spring as cover artist for the Mega-event we've got coming up! Stay tuned for more announcements, Mega-Peoples!

Now I'm just waiting for Blues to show up in the new story!

Your friend,
Bubba J.
from Tenessees

Thanks, Bubba! Hope you enjoyed Blues' debut -- come on back next month for part 2!

Dear Mega Mail,
I just wanted to say this series has been amazing. Every issue has been perfect and it would be interesting to see a Mega Man Legends Spin-off.

Ann H.
sent to MegaMan@archiecomics.com

Thanks, Ann! A 'Legends' spin-off, eh? Sounds cool to me!

Dear Mega-Mail,
This comic is awesome. I was really hooked when I first heard about it and I'm still reading it since issue 1. The stories are really good. My favorite story arc is The Return of Dr. Wily.

Available now in Graphic Novel wherever fine books are sold! plugplugplugplugplug

So far seeing new characters (like Quake Woman) that are not from the games is really cool. Also Proto Man is one of my favorite characters. I was wondering if we will see story arcs with more Quake Woman and maybe some with Proto Man in them?

How do you like THAT for service -- you've got a Proto Man story in this very issue! As for Quake Woman, you will see her again VERY soon, as we love her too :)

If so, AWESOME! If not, that's okay it's still an awesome comic anyway. Keep up the good work.

Ian Y.
Your fan from Ontario Canada

Your wish is our command, Ian! We listen to all the Mega-fans out there who have thoughts on the series, which is partly why you got not one but TWO stories in this issue! Changing things up a bit will give us more opportunities to focus on different characters from throughout the Mega Man universe.

Dear Mega-Mail,
I am thoroughly enjoying the new Mega Man comic series. Keep it up!

Will do!

I really like the personalities of the Robot Masters -- Flash Man is hilarious. I hope more personality will be given to Magnet Man, and that it will be similar to how he is interpreted in that song, "Don't Mess With Magnet Man."

I think you'll be very "attracted" to upcoming issues!

Is there a chance the series will have a spin off comic? A series that focuses on the different time lines of the Mega man universe?

That's a neat idea! Perhaps one day!

One more thing. I am looking forward to Mega Man's future crossover with Sonic!

- AT
from Louisiana

Thanks! We're super psyched too! Keep reading for future updates on all the action!

That's all for this month, see everyone back here for the conclusion of "Proto-Type" in the very next issue! Same Mega-time, same Mega-comic!

NEXT ISSUE:18

PROTO-TYPE
PART TWO

THE CONCLUSION OF
PROTO-TYPE
WHAT HAPPENED TO THE ROBOT NAMED "BLUES" AFTER HE LEFT DR. LIGHT? AND GET READY FOR MORE GUTS MAN ACTION IN "COLD FEAT"!

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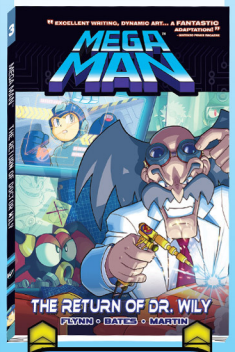

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